

Transistor Radio for Broadcast News!

With iPhones, Androids, Blackberries, iPads, tablets, and laptops available - why would anyone act like it's the 1960s and say, "Get the news on your transistor radio?" Radio stations somewhere might still be broadcasting after your local power goes off and takes the cell phone towers with it. A battery-powered, obsolete-technology transistor radio might work.

I got one at a garage sale for \$1. It needed batteries. It works, and it's in one of my 72-hour kits now.

Batteries... When you put them in for storage, put one in backward. The radio will not work, but the batteries will not corrode the terminals in the radio. When you want the radio to play, put the batteries in correctly.

Spare batteries... that's a definite need. Alkaline batteries last longer than regular ones.

Antennas... A radio with an antenna may pick up stations farther away or of lower power. An antenna may be directional if pointed in different directions.

Earphones or headphones... If available, they help you hear the distant or low-power stations better.

When to listen... Generally radio reception is better at night. That's handy because in an emergency situation, you may not be doing much anyway at night.

AM, FM, Shortwave, Weather bands...

- AM can skip over the horizon, especially at night.
- FM is pretty much line of sight.
- Shortwave is worldwide, usually best at night.
- Weather is U.S. Government low-power stations, likely dead.
- Satellite radio may also work, but receivers aren't as portable.

News in general... If your city loses power, it's news. You'll hear about it from radio stations outside your city. The same principle applies for your county, state, region, or nation. You may not learn what is going on locally, but radio news will help you determine the extent of the problem and what's being done to solve it.

Battery-powered transistor radios would probably work when cell phones and landline phones were useless. Pack one in your emergency gear.